Express Scripts May Start Price War Over New Hepatitis C Drugs

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Express Scripts Holding Co., the largest drug benefits manager in the United States, plans to start a price war over the next generation of hepatitis C virus (HCV) drugs once they hit markets next year and in 2015, Bloomberg reports. The pharmacy benefits company, responding to news that the new treatments will cost nearly $1,000 a pill, may pit Gilead Sciences against AbbVie and other drugmakers by threatening to block new drugs from reimbursement if their competitors accept lower pricing. By doing so, Express Scripts could potentially force drug makers to compete for new patients by providing discounts or agreeing to lower co-pays.

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